



Ferguson gunman arrested

St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch, center, speaks during a news conference along side St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar, right, and Webster Groves Police Captain Stephen Spear, left, Sunday, March 15, 2015, in Clayton, Mo.

Associated Press
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Man charged with shooting officers at Ferguson protest

JIM SALTER

Associated Press

CLAYTON, Missouri (AP)

— A 20-year-old man charged Sunday with shooting two police officers watching over a demonstration outside the Ferguson Police Department told investigators he wasn't targeting the officers, officials said.

St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch said Jeffrey Williams told authorities he was firing at someone with whom he was in a dispute.

"We're not sure we completely buy that part of it," McCulloch said, adding that there might have been other people in the vehicle with Williams.

Williams is charged with two counts of first-degree assault, one count of firing a weapon from a vehicle and three counts of armed criminal action. McCulloch said the investigation is ongoing.

Tensions between police and the black community have been high in Ferguson since the fatal Aug. 9 shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown, who was black and unarmed, by now-former police officer Darren Wilson, who is white. Wilson was cleared by a Justice Department report, and a grand jury declined to indict Wilson in November.

The incident sparked a nationwide discussion about police relations with minority communities.

The two officers were shot early Thursday as a crowd began to break up after a late-night demonstration that unfolded after Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson resigned in the wake of the scathing Justice Department report.



This photo provided by the St. Louis County Police Department on Sunday, March 15, 2015 shows Jeffrey Williams.
Associated Press

The federal report found widespread racial bias in the city's policing and in a municipal court system driven by profit extracted from mostly black and low-income residents. Six Ferguson officials, including Jackson, have resigned or been fired since the report was released March 4.

On Thursday, a 41-year-old St. Louis County officer was shot in the right shoulder, the bullet exiting through his back. A 32-year-old officer from Webster Groves was wearing a riot helmet with the face shield up. He was shot in the right cheek, just below the eye, and the bullet lodged behind his ear. The officers were released from the hospital later Thursday. St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said Sunday that "officers were getting better, not getting worse."

McCulloch said Williams used a handgun that matches the shell casings found at the scene.

Williams, who Belmar said is black, is being held on \$300,000 bond. County

police spokesman Brian Schellman said he didn't know whether Williams had an attorney or when he'd appear in court. A message left at the St. Louis County Justice Center was not immediately returned. Attorney General Eric Holder said in a statement Sunday that the arrest "sends

a clear message that acts of violence against our law enforcement personnel will never be tolerated."

Several activists who've been involved in the protests since the Brown's shooting told The Associated Press they were not

familiar with Williams.

Online state court records show a man by the name of Jeffrey Williams at the address police provided Sunday was charged in 2013 with receiving stolen property and fraudulent use of a credit/debit device. □



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Woman held captive a decade says she's overcoming fears

CLEVELAND (AP)—A young woman held captive and tortured for more than a decade in a Cleveland home says she is conquering her fears these days. Michelle Knight said she now likes reading Stephen King novels.

"I like a little scare in my life," she explained at a Cleveland Main Library public discussion on Saturday. She also said she plans to go skydiving to overcome a fear of heights and because "I'm adventurous."

The Plain Dealer of Cleveland newspaper reported, though, that she hasn't decided whether to watch an upcoming TV movie about the ordeal she, Amanda Berry and Gina DeJesus survived. "I prefer not to put myself in a backwards

spiral," Knight, now 33, explained. "You've got to take the bad in life and replace it with something good." She said her main goal is "to keep hope alive for the missing and the voiceless." Knight was kidnapped at age 21 by

in paperback. "How could you not be moved?" asked Cleveland resident Karen Sroka, one of the many who lined up to have books signed by Knight, be photographed with her or just chat briefly. She didn't want to discuss her son,

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In this Thursday, June 26, 2014, file photo, Michelle Knight smiles during an interview in Cleveland.

Associated Press

Ariel Castro. The women escaped his house in May 2013 and Castro committed suicide in prison that September after pleading guilty to a long list of charges. Knight was the first taken captive by Castro, in August 2002.

"When I first was outside, it felt like my eyes were being fried like eggs in a frying pan," she said, telling the audience she needed special sunglasses after being freed.

"I don't have pity for him," she said of Castro. "He has hurt me for years, and now I am over that."

The Plain Dealer reported repeated applause and cheering for Knight, whose book "Finding Me" is now

who was adopted while she was still missing and "locked away in hell." She also described her relationship with Berry and DeJesus as "kind of hectic ... It's best to deal with it in our own way."

Knight legally changed her name to Lily Rose Lee, but still goes by Michelle Knight in public appearances.

She said she recently moved into her own house and has named a puppy she adopted "Sky," because the pattern on her fur "reminds of the sky I didn't get to see for years."

"She's an inspiration," said Cindy Spiegler of Willoughby. "We've all had hardships, but hers is beyond anything." □



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U.S. Reform Jewish rabbis install first openly lesbian leader

RACHEL ZOLL
AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As a rabbinic student in 1980s New York, Denise Eger lived away from other seminarians. She quietly started a group for fellow gay and lesbian students, but held the meetings in another borough. By the time of her ordination, she wasn't formally out, but her sexuality was known, and no one would hire her. Later, she took the only job offered, with a synagogue formed expressly as a religious refuge for gays.

Since then, the Reform Jewish movement — Eger's spiritual home since childhood — has traveled a long road toward recognizing and embracing same-sex relationships. That journey has led this week to Philadelphia, where Eger will be installed Monday as the

first openly gay president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the rabbinical arm of Reform Judaism. "It really shows an arc of LGBT civil rights," Eger said in a phone interview ahead of the convention where she will take office. "I smile a lot — with a smile of incredulity." Eger, founding rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami in Los Angeles, isn't the first openly gay or lesbian clergy person to lead an American rabbinic group. In 2007, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association chose Rabbi Toba Spitzer, a lesbian, as its national president. But Reform Jews, with 2,000 rabbis and 862 American congregations, comprise the largest movement in American Judaism and have a broader role in the Jewish world. Reform Judaism was the earliest of the

major Jewish movements to take formal steps toward recognizing same-sex relationships. In 1977, the Reform movement called for civil rights protections for gays. By 1996, Reform rabbis backed same-sex civil marriage. But as these positions developed, gays and lesbians had to grapple with the uncertainties of pursuing ordination at a time when they could easily be kicked out of a seminary over their sexuality, or graduate without a congregation willing to hire them. Eger, 55, began working in synagogues at age 12, in the mailroom of the Memphis, Tennessee, congregation her family attended. Around the same time, she realized she was a lesbian. By college, Eger knew she wanted to become a rabbi or cantor, even though she believed at the time that it



In this March 12, 2015 photo, Rabbi Denise Eger poses at Congregation Kol Ami, a Reform synagogue with gay and lesbian outreach programs, in West Hollywood, Calif.

Associated Press

meant she would have to sacrifice her hopes of having a spouse and children. "It was impossible to reconcile being a rabbi and being a gay person or a lesbian person," she said. During seminary, she had a girlfriend, and said some people treated them as a couple. Some Reform synagogues had started outreach programs to gays and lesbians and one con-

gregation, in San Francisco, had an openly gay rabbi. Still, around that time, Minnesota Rabbi Stacy Offner announced she was a lesbian, and was forced out of leadership at her Reform congregation. After Eger was ordained in 1988, she had only the one job offer. She started the position with Beth Chayim Chadashim in Los Angeles amid the AIDS crisis. □



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McConnell says attorney general nomination could be delayed



In this March 3, 2015, file photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., speak to the media at the Capitol in Washington.

KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Ma-

jority Leader Mitch McCon-
nell warned Sunday that
he won't hold a confirma-

tion vote for North Carolina
native Loretta Lynch as at-
torney general before the

Associated Press

Senate completes work on
a bill designed to curb hu-
man trafficking.

The Kentucky Republican's
comments prompted im-
mediate protests from
Democratic lawmakers
who view her confirmation
as a top priority. McConnell
had said he would be mov-
ing to the Lynch nomina-
tion this coming week. But
then last week's debate
on a human trafficking bill
broke down over a dispute
about a provision regard-
ing funding for abortions.
Democrats made a late
objection to a provision
that prohibits money de-
dicated to a fund for victims
from being used to pay for
abortions except in cases
of rape, incest or if the life
of the woman were in jeopar-
dy. Similar restrictions on the
use of federal funds have
been in place for three de-
cades. But abortion-rights
supporters said the legisla-
tion takes the restrictions
a step further by applying
them to the personal mon-
ey convicted sex traffick-
ers pay into a government

fund. McConnell said Sun-
day during an interview on
CNN that Democrats had
voted for the very same
language three months
ago. He said the Senate is
soon scheduled to turn to
the budget and then to be
on recess for two weeks, so
there is only a limited win-
dow of time for the Lynch
vote. "If they want to have
time to turn to the attorney
general bill next week, we
need to finish up this hu-
man trafficking bill," McCo-
nnell said. Democratic Sen.
Chuck Schumer of New
York said Republicans are
using any excuse they can
to stall the nomination. At a
time when terrorist groups
are threatening the U.S.,
the nominee deserves a
vote, he said.

"It's time for Republicans to
stop dragging their feet on
Loretta Lynch," Schumer
said. Lynch would be the
first black woman to serve
as the nation's top law
enforcement officer. She
would succeed Eric Holder,
who is staying on until a re-
placement is confirmed. □

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Gay groups march at last in Boston St. Patrick's Day parade

IGNACIO LAGUARDA
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade made history Sunday as two gay and lesbian groups marched after decades of opposition and a case that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The gay military veterans service group OutVets and gay rights group Boston Pride joined the annual celebration of military veterans and Irish heritage at the invitation of the sponsoring South Boston Allied War Veterans Council.

"We march today for the memories of those thousands and thousands of people who went before us, some who went to their graves in the closet," OutVets founder and leader and Air Force veteran Bryan Bishop told his group before the parade. He called it "the beginning of the mission of this organization to honor the service and sacrifice of every single LGBT veteran, their family, their allies and every veteran in this country who fought so selflessly to defend the rights that we hold dear."

Sarah Jo Gomez-Lorraine, a Navy officer and OutVets member taking part in the march, said it's an honor to represent gay veterans who never got the opportunity to come out.

"I feel today that I stand on the shoulders of giants

who've gone before me and never got to see this in their lives," she said. "It's very humbling to be able to stand in places that others never got to."

Boston Pride member Freddy Murphy said the open inclusion of gay groups was a long time coming.

"I just remember watching the parade and kind of thinking it was hopeless, that my entire world was against me," said Murphy, a Dorchester neighborhood native whose father was a Boston firefighter. "This is why I'm marching today."

The Allied War Council's current leaders voted 5-4 in December to welcome OutVets as one of about 100 groups in this year's parade. Boston Pride said it also received an acceptance letter this week.

"We honor immigrants and veterans, and they served," council leader Brian Mahoney said this week.

Boston's mayors had boycotted the event since 1995, when the council took its fight to exclude gay groups to the U.S. Supreme Court and won on constitutional grounds.

This year Mayor Marty Walsh, Gov. Charlie Baker and other Massachusetts political leaders took part. First-term U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton, who served four tours in Iraq as a Marine, marched with OutVets. "I



Members of OutVets, a group of gay military veterans, hold a banner and flags as they march in the St. Patrick's Day parade, Sunday, March 15, 2015, in Boston's South Boston neighborhood. Associated Press

believe gay rights is the civil rights fight of our generation and this is a small, but important, step in the steady march toward freedom and justice," he said.

Some Roman Catholic groups declined to march, including the state Knights of Columbus, saying they felt this year's parade had been politicized. □

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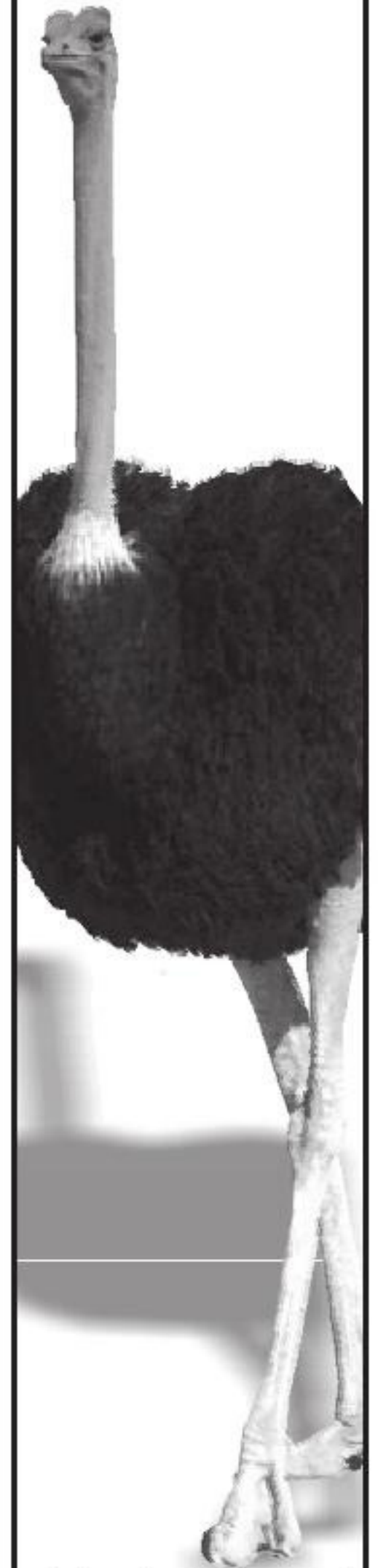


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Millionaire arrested hours before finale of film on murders

**JANET MCCONNAUGHEY
BRIAN MELLEY**

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Robert Durst, an eccentric millionaire from one of America's wealthiest families, was arrested on a murder warrant just before Sunday's finale of a serial documentary about his links to three sensational killings.

FBI agents arrested Durst at a New Orleans hotel Saturday on a warrant from Los Angeles for the murder of a mobster's daughter 15 years ago, authorities said. Durst was ordered held without bond pending another hearing Monday. His lawyer, Chip Lewis, said Durst will agree to be taken to Los Angeles to face the first-degree murder charge. Durst participated in the documentary, giving an extensive interview to filmmaker Andrew Jarecki for "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst." But Lewis said nothing his client revealed changes his innocence.

Durst's estranged and fearful relatives thanked authorities for tracking him down.

"We are relieved and also grateful to everyone who assisted in the arrest of Robert Durst. We hope he will finally be held accountable for all he has done," said his brother, Douglas Durst, in a statement.

Durst, 71, has always maintained his innocence in the 2000 murder of Susan

Berman, whose father was an associate of Las Vegas mobsters Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky.

Berman, a writer who became Durst's spokeswoman, was killed at her home with a bullet to the back of her head as New York investigators prepared to question her in the unsolved 1982 disappearance of Durst's wife, Kathleen.

The climax of last week's episode revealed a handwritten address on a letter, recovered by the slain woman's relative, that Durst had sent to Berman. The handwriting seems virtually identical to an anonymous letter alerting Beverly Hills police to a "cadaver" in Berman's home. Even the word "Beverly" is misspelled as "Beverley" on both documents.

Durst observes in the documentary that only Berman's killer could have sent the letter to police.

The Los Angeles Police said the arrest resulted from "investigative leads and additional evidence that has come to light in the last year."

Lewis said he has no doubt the arrest was orchestrated in coordination with HBO's broadcast of the final episode.

After Berman's death, Durst moved to Texas, where he lived as a mute woman in a boarding house until his arrest in 2001 after dismembered parts of the body of his elderly neighbor, Morris

Black, were found floating in Galveston Bay.

Durst then became a fugitive until he was caught shoplifting in Pennsylvania, even though he had \$500 cash in his pocket and \$37,000 in his rental car — along with two guns and marijuana.

Lewis told the jury that Durst shot Black in self-defense and suffered from Asperger's syndrome.

Despite admitting that he used a paring knife, two saws and an axe to dismember Black's body before dumping the remains, Durst was acquitted of murder.

Durst "has been incredibly lucky that so many people who've investigated him have dropped the ball, but I think that luck may be running out," said Former Galveston County District Court Judge Susan Criss, who presided over the Texas murder trial.

The Durst family is worth at least \$4 billion, according to the Forbes list of richest Americans.

The oldest son of the late real estate mogul Seymour



This booking photo provided by the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office shows Robert Durst, after his Saturday, March 14, 2015 arrest in New Orleans on an extradition warrant to Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Durst, whose Durst Corporation manages 1 World Trade Center, Robert Durst became estranged from his family when his brother Douglas was chosen instead of him to run the family business.

Robert Durst had known tragedy from an early age — when he was 7, his father called him onto the roof of a building to try to persuade his suicidal mother not to jump. He left before seeing her fall.

In 1982, Robert Durst reported that his wife, Kathie, had suddenly disappeared from their cottage in New York state. No one was ever charged.

More recently, Douglas Durst has said he fears his

brother would kill him. Robert Durst has denied that. But in 2012 and 2013, his family members had restraining orders taken out against him.

In 2013, Durst tried unsuccessfully to claim \$82,000 from his missing wife's estate, even though his personal net worth has been estimated at about \$100 million.

"The story is so operatic," Jarecki told the AP before his documentary aired.

Jarecki told a fictionalized version of Durst's story in "All Good Things," a 2010 film starring Ryan Gosling. Then he got a call from Durst himself, who wanted to see it and eventually agreed to talk on camera. □

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Venezuelan parliament OKs decree powers for president

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— The Venezuelan parliament has approved a law giving President Nicolas Maduro the power to legislate by decree for nine months in the face of what he describes as threats by the U.S. government.

The so-called "anti-imperialist" law passed on Sunday will be in effect from the time it is published in Venezuela's Official Gazette and until Dec. 31.

Maduro requested the expanded powers in re-

sponse to new U.S. sanctions on Venezuelan officials accused of human rights violations. Critics of Venezuela's government have called the move a power grab. The U.S. is targeting officials in the top echelon of Venezuela's security apparatus responsible for cracking down on last year's anti-government protests and for pursuing charges against opponents. The officials will be denied U.S. visas and have their U.S. assets frozen. □



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro holds up the "anti-imperialist" law as he addresses supporters at a rally outside Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, March 15, 2015. Associated Press

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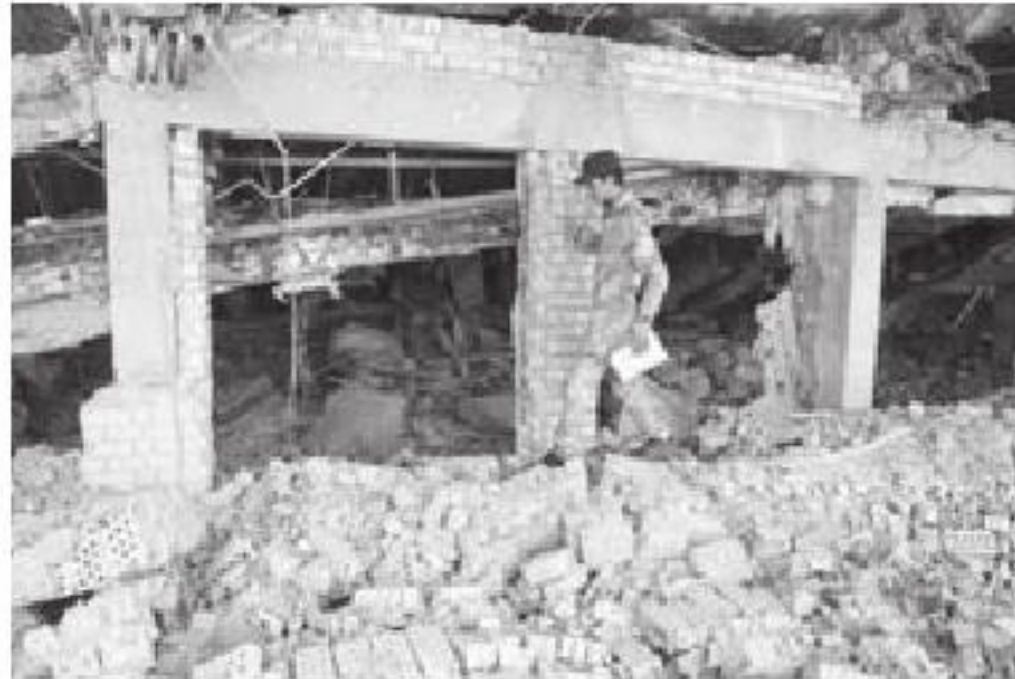
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Saddam's tomb suffers extensive damage in Iraq fighting

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

OUJA, Iraq (AP) — The tomb of Iraq's late dictator Saddam Hussein was virtually leveled in heavy clashes between militants from the Islamic State group and Iraqi forces in a fight for control of the city of Tikrit. Fighting intensified to the north and south of Saddam Hussein's hometown Sunday as Iraqi security forces vowed to reach the center of Tikrit within 48 hours. Associated Press video from the village of Ouja, just south of Tikrit, shows all that remains of Hussein's once-lavish tomb are the support columns that held up the roof. Poster-sized pictures of the late Sunni dictator, which once covered the mausoleum, are now nowhere to be seen amid the moun-



An Iraqi soldier inspects the demolished tomb of former Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein, in Tikrit, 130 kilometers (80 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, March 15, 2015.

Associated Press

tains of concrete rubble. Instead, Shiite militia flags and photos of militia leaders mark the predominantly Sunni village, including that of Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the powerful Iranian

general advising Iraqi Shiite militias on the battlefield. "This is one of the areas where IS militants massed the most because Saddam's grave is here," said Captain Yasser Nu'ma, an official with the Shiite militias, formerly known as the Popular Mobilization Forces. "The IS militants set an ambush for us by planting bombs around" the tomb. The extremist Islamic State group has controlled Tikrit since June, when it waged its lightning offensive that saw Iraq's second-largest

city, Mosul, come under their control. The Islamic State was helped in its conquest of northern Iraq by Saddam loyalists, including military veterans, who appealed to Sunnis who felt victimized by Baghdad's Shiite-dominated government. The Islamic State group claimed in August that Saddam's tomb had been completely destroyed, but local officials said it was just ransacked and burned, but suffered only minor damage. Saddam's body has been kept in the mausoleum in his birthplace, Ouja, since 2007. The complex featured a marble octagon at the center of which a bed of fresh flowers covered the place where his body was buried. The extravagant chandelier at its center was reminiscent of the extravagant life he led until U.S. forces toppled him in 2003. Iraqi media reported last year that Saddam's body was removed by loyalists amid fears that it would be disturbed in the fighting. The body's location is not known. Recapturing Tikrit, a Sunni bastion on the Ti-

gris River, would pave the way for an assault on Mosul, which U.S. officials have said could come as soon as next month. Concerns are mounting that Iraq's Shiite militias, of which an estimated 20,000 are fighting in Tikrit, will carry out revenge attacks on this and other areas that are home to predominantly Sunni residents. Amnesty International last year said the militias wear military uniforms but operate outside any legal framework and without any official oversight, adding that they are not prosecuted for their crimes. Earlier this month, Human Rights Watch echoed those concerns, calling on the Iraqi government to protect civilians in Tikrit and allow them to flee combat zones. Its statement noted "numerous atrocities" against Sunni civilians by pro-government militias and security forces. Shiite militants are increasingly being accused of leveling the Sunni towns they capture from the Islamic State group, making it impossible for residents to return. □

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Maine teacher wins \$1M Global Teacher Prize in Dubai



In this Feb. 6, 2015 photo, Indigenous Maori perform, in Waitangi, New Zealand, to mark the 175th anniversary of the signing of the country's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi. Associated Press

AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An English teacher from rural Maine won the \$1 million Global Teacher Prize on Sunday after 42 years of work as an innovator and pioneer in teaching literature.

Nancie Atwell plans to donate the full amount to the Center for Teaching and Learning which she founded in 1990 in Edgecomb, Maine as a nonprofit demonstration school created for the purpose of developing and disseminating teaching methods. The school says 97 percent of its graduates have gone on to university.

Atwell said that winning the award is a valedictory for her life's work, but that her true validation comes from the responses of students.

"I really find that I'm validated every day just by the experiences I have with children in the classroom," she told The Associated Press after receiving the award.

Atwell was selected from a pool of 1,300 applicants from 127 countries.

The top 10 finalists, which included two other teachers from the U.S. and others from Afghanistan, India, Haiti, Cambodia, Malaysia, Kenya, and the U.K., were flown to Dubai, United Arab Emirates for the ceremony. The winner was announced on stage by Sunny Varkey, founder of the non-profit Varkey Foundation that focuses on education issues and founder of the for-profit

GEMS Education company that has more than 130 schools around the world. The award was created to be the largest prize of its kind and to serve as a sort-of Nobel Prize for one exceptional teacher each year.

After Atwell won the award, a young boy no older than 11 with a book bag strapped to his back waited patiently with his mother for a photograph with the winning teacher. Varkey said that the award is aimed at fostering that kind of admiration for teachers and to say "to a celebrity-obsessed world that teachers are important and worthy of respect."

Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and former U.S. President Bill Clinton, who is honorary chair of the Varkey Foundation, were also on-hand to give Atwell the award.

Atwell has received numerous other awards throughout her life for her innovative approach to teaching. She has authored nine books about teaching, including "In The Middle," which sold more than half a million copies.

"The other recognition I've received has been content-area specific," she said. "This is global... this is really an award for a body of work, for a lifetime of teaching."

Hundreds of teachers have visited her center in Maine over the years to learn its writing-reading practices.

Her school's eighth grade

students read an average of 40 books per year, compared to the national average of about 10. They

also write extensively, and many of her students have gone on to become published authors.

All of her students choose the subjects they write about and the books they read. □



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Demonstrators prepare dolls representing Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff, left, and former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, right, with a placard written in Portuguese "I do not know anything", during protest against the government of Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff, in Brasilia, Brazil, Sunday, March 15, 2015.

Associated Press

Hundreds of thousands march to ask Brazil president's ouster

STAN LEHMAN
BRAD BROOKS

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Brazilians marched peacefully Sunday in over 50 cities around the country to demand President Dilma Rousseff's impeachment and to criticize government corruption.

The biggest protests were in Sao Paulo, an opposition stronghold where hundreds of thousands gathered on a main avenue, as well as in the capital city

of Brasilia and in Rio de Janeiro.

Dozens of cities saw demonstrations gathering together a few thousand people each. According to the website of the Globo TV network, Brazil's largest, the total number in the streets across Brazil was over 300,000 people, based on local police estimates. "We are here to express our indignation with the government-sponsored corruption and thieving and to demand Dilma's impeachment," said Andre Menezes, 35, protesting with hundreds of thousands on Avenida Paulista in Sao Paulo.

"She may have not been directly involved in the corruption at Petrobras, but she certainly knew about it, and for me that makes her just as guilty and justifies her ouster," he added.

In Rio, police estimated 15,000 people marched along the golden sands of Copacabana beach, where they waved Brazilian flags and many openly called for a military coup to dissolve the government.

"I don't want my country to turn into a Venezuela, we don't want an authoritarian government!" said Marlon Aymes, 35, helping carry a 20-foot long banner that read in English: "Army, Navy and Air Force. Please Save Us Once Again of Communism."

"We want the military to dissolve Congress and call new elections, because the level of corruption is too widespread to do any-

thing else," Aymes added. Much protester ire was focused on a kickback scheme at state-run oil company Petrobras, which prosecutors call the biggest corruption scheme ever uncovered in Brazil. At least \$800 million was paid in bribes and other funds by the nation's biggest construction and engineering firms in exchange for inflated Petrobras contracts. Top executives are already in jail and the attorney general is investigating dozens of top congressmen, along with current and former members of the executive branch, for alleged connections to the scheme that apparently began in 1997 before Rousseff's party took power in 2003. Rousseff, a former chairwoman of Petrobras' board, has not been implicated and so far is not being investigated, though top officials from her administration, including two former chiefs of staff, are caught up in the inquiry.

The marches add pressure on Rousseff, whose poll ratings have never been lower and who is facing dual economic and political crises. But the protests are significantly different than anti-government demonstrations in 2013. Those earlier protests cut across political, social and economic lines, and were a widespread expression of frustration with poor public services like health care and transportation, as well as a cry against government corruption. □

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Kitchen Table by White: Fresh, Authentic Island Flavors

PALM BEACH - Island gourmards and vacationers who appreciate fine dining are buzzing about the unique experience of Kitchen Table by White, which opened in Blue Residences this summer. Helmed by Chef Urvin Croes, founder of White Modern Cuisine, Kitchen Table boasts that same attention to detail that made his first venture such a success, along with a vibrant, passionate staff dedicated to the concept of elevating traditional Aruban and Caribbean dishes to the realm of haute cuisine. "Aruba has more than its share of French/Italian/



deft touch at pairing them to perfection. His enthusiasm for the delicate art of enhancing the flavors of both the wine and food with an ideal match is as infectious as his ready smile and congenial charm. He spent ten years in the kitchens of the Royal Caribbean cruise lines, where as a novice to the foodservice industry he discovered their wine cellars. His passion for the art won him first place among over 1500 employees during a stringent wine



Urvin and his team are all graduates of Aruba's highly-respected EPI Culinary Institute. He continued his studies at the ROC Gildevaart College, Nieuwegein, then apprenticed at the Brasserie Goeie Luisa, advancing to become their Chef de Partie. Urvin further developed his culinary skills during five years at the famed Michelin 5* rated Grand Restaurant Karel V, perfectly his art before returning to

Aruba to open his own eatery. Second in command, Sous Chef Ludovico Henriquez, and the Kitchen Table staff consisting of Claude Werleman, and Moises Ramirez are equally passionate about the concept of food as art. Watching them create the spectacular dishes in the elegant but cozy surroundings is a great part of the evening's entertainment.



fast food restaurants and steakhouses," observes Chef Urvin, "but I honestly believe that island visitors are looking for a distinctive experience, not something they can have at home any time. During their stay, they wish to savor the authentic flavors of the region, and we have sought out fresh, locally grown ingredients and interpreted traditional island dishes in a manner to surprise and please the most finicky critic."



The multi-course meal is a feast for the eyes as well as the tastebuds; the inventive uses of just-picked regional flowers and herbs such as frangipani, moringa, mata di seda and koko robona are explained, so diners can truly comprehend the careful thought and preparation that goes into each dish. Rounding out the Kitchen Table culinary team is Restaurant Manager Carlito Castillo, who thoroughly enjoys sharing his love of fine vintages and has a

testing contest among all the line's culinary staffers. The Kitchen Table by White was recently elected the number ONE restaurant among USA Top 10 Best Aruban and Caribbean restaurants in Aruba. Discover island cuisine elevated to an elegant but intimate dining experience at Kitchen Table. Seating is extremely limited with only 14 reservations accepted nightly and four held for spur-of-the-moment gourmards. Reserve early online via reservations@ktbywhite.com or call: 528-7015. □





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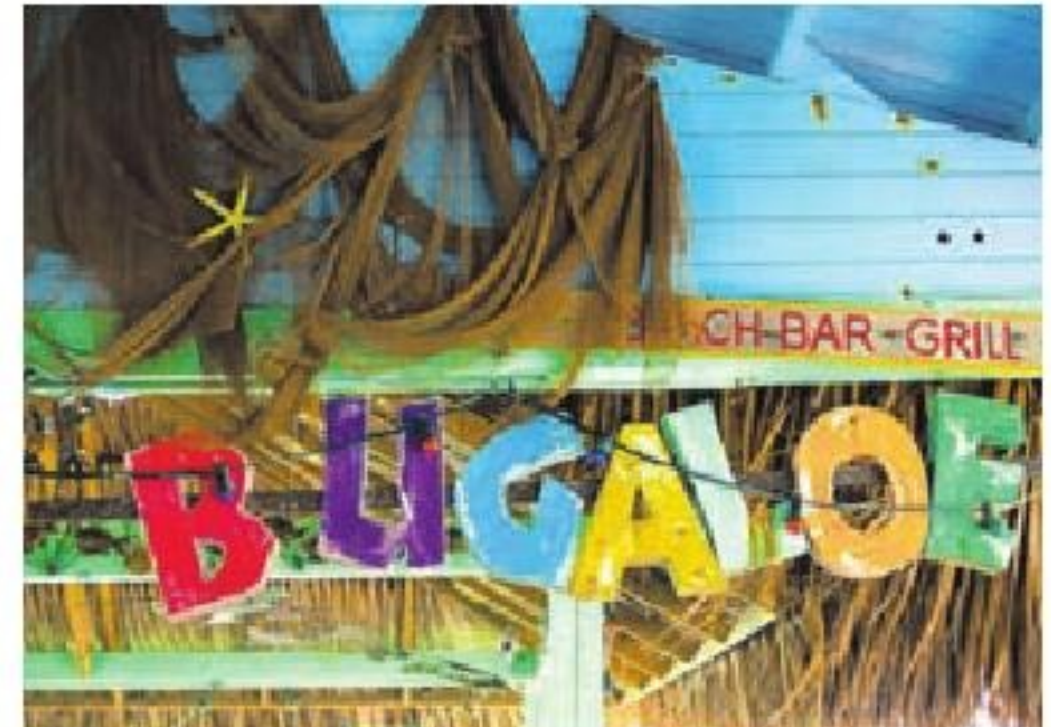



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PALM BEACH – Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill, located on De Palm Pier between the Radisson Resort and Riu Hotel, has a very special St. Patrick's Day celebration planned! Join in on the Green Frenzy with a special menu and drinks. The bar is open from 8.30AM till midnight and is perfectly located on the crystal clear waters of Aruba with stunning 360 degree views. The special is an Irish Beef Stew made with Guinness beer and served with potato mash. Our chef, Marc Hernandez, has pulled out all the stops for this party! This delicious platter can already be enjoyed for only \$12,-. The stew is a good base for a night of partying

with some tasty green jelly shots for only \$2, -. Don't forget our Double Daily Happy Hour from 5-6PM and 10-11PM to enjoy special prices on cocktails, wines, beers and live music by our very own entertainers! Never been to Bugaloe before? Come in anytime of the day and enjoy the relaxing Caribbean vibes while overlooking the beautiful turquoise Aruban Ocean. What better way to discover Bugaloe than tomorrow, with our special Irish Beef Stew for only \$12,-? We look forward to welcoming you in your best green outfit for St. Patrick's Day! More information? Visit: www.facebook.com/bugaloe-aruba □





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Terry and Cheryl honored as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba

Recently Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a loyal and friendly visitor. The honorees are: Mr. Terry and Cheryl resident of Florida. The honorees are members Divi Village and have been enjoying the Island every year. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 20 years consecutive. The main reasons why they keep coming back to Aruba are the friendly people, the beaches, the beautiful weather, and the local food. The Certificate was presented by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority and Gloria Defoe activities coordinator of Divi Village. □



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Sidebar changes Aruba's restaurant scene with its flavorful gourmet burgers

ORANJESTAD - Take a burger of one hundred percent prime Angus beef, add to that the freshest possible extras and tastiest sauces and voila: here is your gourmet burger. Sidebar, a newly opened, great restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace in downtown Oranjestad, knows how to tease your taste buds with the best burgers imaginable.

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TripAdvisor - January 5th, 2015

Sidebar's signature burgers have been named The Sidebar, The Afterburner, The Goliath, The Texan, The Chaser, The Primal and The Italian Job and we are sure that everyone will be able to find a burger that calls out to them. The burgers come with brie cheese, prosciutto, Cheddar cheese, zucchini, sliced steak, Bourbon bbq sauce, dripping gravy and much more, depending on your order. The best thing is that these gourmet beauties cost less than \$ 15.--, so lunch or an evening out won't break the bank.

Feel love for Sidebar's burgers; they are bursting with taste- try them all and find your personal favorite. Come on down to Sidebar and rock your Wildest West with a fabulously tasty burger that packs a punch with its layers of flavor. And if you are not in a burger mood, then Sidebar has a wonderfully varied menu of all kinds of other options, ranging from vegetarian mushrooms and spinach to a zucchini cutlet to lovely salads, homemade soups, pastas and fish dishes.

Wash your lunch or dinner down with a premium, aged Bourbon or try the ice-cold beers on tap to slake your thirst. You can choose between Heineken, Balashi, Chill, Stella Artois, Miller Light or Presidente. Come inside, at the bar or sit outside on the terrace; at Sidebar there will always be a place for you.



Picture: "THE TEXAN" GOURMET BURGER



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Aruba Aloe Invites the Community to Celebrate Flag Day



HATO - This Wednesday, Aruba Aloe is offering a fun, special way for families to celebrate Flag Day. From 9 am to 3 pm, Aruba Aloe invites the community to visit its factory facility in Hato for a free tour to see firsthand how the company makes its world-renowned products from 100% pure aloe vera grown on-site. Additionally, visitors will be treated to a free gift with any purchase of 20 AWG.

Aruba Aloe's family-friendly tour is the perfect activity for Flag Day, with aloe vera playing such an important role in Aruba's history and national pride. In 1840, the plant was first brought from Africa to Aruba, where it thrived in the island's hot and dry climate. Eventually, 2/3 of the island was covered in aloe plantations, and at one time, Aruba was the world's largest aloe exporter. The aloe plant's inclusion in Aruba's coat of arms attests to its vital importance to the country's early economy. Today, Aruba Aloe continues the Aruban tradition of cultivating and processing aloe at its state-of-the-art factory, and its well-curated tour provides visitors the chance to see it up close and personal. During the tour, kids will especially love the aloe-cutting demonstration, which takes place right next to the actual fields where the aloe is grown. The aloe plant's history and its remarkable

healing properties are explained in the museum, where visitors can also see a life-size rendition of the outdoor oven used to process aloe in the early 1900s. In the factory itself, the tour highlights the various parts of the production process, from the hand-cutting of aloe leaves to the packing of the final products. Tours will run every 15 minutes, making it convenient for families to stop by the factory any time this Wednesday. Following the tour, visitors will be invited to peruse Aruba Aloe's sun and body care collections at the on-site boutique, and in celebration of Flag Day, visitors will receive a free gift with any purchase of 20 AWG. Aruba Aloe wishes the entire Aruban community a happy, safe Flag Day and looks forward to celebrating this day of national pride by showcasing one of Aruba's most important traditions that the company proudly carries on today. □



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POWER OF SPIETH



Spieth wins another playoff thriller

Jordan Spieth hits his tee shot on the second hole during the third round of the Valspar Championship golf tournament Saturday, March 14, 2015, at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla.

Associated Press

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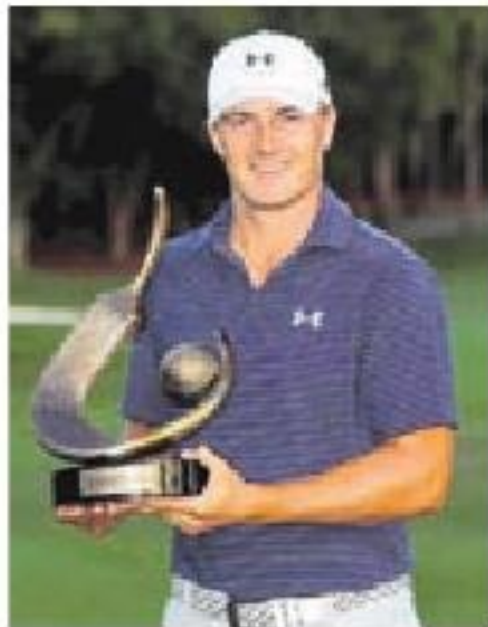
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Jordan Spieth holds his trophy after winning the Valspar Championship golf tournament in a playoff Sunday, March 15, 2015, at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla.

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)

— Some of the best short-

Spieth wins at Innisbrook in a playoff

game shots Jordan Spieth has hit in his young career have been on the final two holes on the Copperhead course at Innisbrook.

Two years ago, it paved the way for him to get his PGA Tour card as a teenager.

He came full circle Sunday by making two improbable par saves to get into a playoff, and then winning the Valspar Championship on the third extra hole by making a 30-foot birdie putt to beat Patrick Reed and Sean O'Hair.

"I would rank those definitely in the top five I've ever had given the lies and

the scenario," Spieth said. And the winning putt?

"That's just luck," he said with a smile. "Guess it was my day."

It put an end to an afternoon of back-nine charges, big birdie putts and clutch par saves, the latest chapter in a PGA Tour season that already has featured eight playoffs.

This one was off the charts. Reed rammed in a 30-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to cap off a 5-under 66, and then was lounging in a chair waiting to see if anyone could catch him, and they how many would join him. O'Hair got there

with a 30-foot birdie on the 16th hole and a tough par save on the 18th, making a 5-foot putt look far easier than a guy who has now gone 87 starts since his last win.

Spieth looked like he wouldn't make it to the finish line. Tied for the lead, he left his 6-iron well to the right on the par-3 17th and was hopeful of the best. He said to caddie Michael Greller, "Please be a good lie or not on a down slope." It was a terrible lie on a down slope.

Spieth hit a flop shot that landed perfectly and rolled 6 feet by the hole, and he

saved his par. On the 18th, he hit a fat shot from a fairway bunker some 35 yards short, with a clump of grass behind it and the grain of the grass into the ball. Greller's advice was for Spieth to at least have a chance for par. He hit another flop to 12 feet, and the putt fell on the last turn from the left side of the cup. "A crazy back nine," Spieth said. Three behind with six holes to play, Spieth closed with a 2-under 69 to catch a faltering Ryan Moore and win his second PGA Tour title, both in a playoff.

Continued on Next Page



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Sean O'Hair tees off on the first playoff hole during the final round of the Valspar Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 15, 2015, at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla. O'Hair lost to Jordan Spieth on the third hole.

Continued from Previous Page

It was his fourth win worldwide — he now has three wins in his last eight starts around the world — to reach a career-high No. 6 in the world and already surpass \$10 million in career earnings.

The 24-year-old Reed went his final 30 holes without a bogey and made two par saves in the play-off that were as good as anything Spieth did.

From a plugged lie in the lip of the bunker on the 18th in the playoff, he blasted out to 10 feet and rolled it in like it was a 3-footer. On the next play-off hole, the 16th, he went deep over the green into grass so deep he couldn't see it, and nearly holed the shot.

He was in deep trouble on the third playoff hole, too, and hit a bunker shot to 6 feet.

"I didn't even have to hit the putt because Jordan poured it in," said Reed, who beat Spieth in a playoff for the first of his four PGA Tour wins at the Wyndham Championship in August 2013.

O'Hair hasn't won since the 2011 Canadian Open, and he had to earn back his full PGA Tour card the last two years at the Web.com Tour Finals. In contention for the first time since longer than he can remember, his swing and his nerves held up fine. O'Hair had a 12-foot bird-

ie putt to win on the second playoff hole, and it caught the right edge of the lip and spun away. He played bogey-free on the back nine and shot 31 to close with a 67.

"I gave myself a chance," O'Hair said. "That's really all I can do. I played solid all day, played solid all week, and then the play-off was a ton of fun. Two young guys made me feel really old."

O'Hair is 32 with four children. He turned pro when Spieth was in the first grade. This was a big boost for O'Hair, who was never far from the lead for four days.

Henrik Stenson, in his Innisbrook debut, ran off three straight birdies and closed with a 67 to fall one shot short of the playoff.

Only two players in 2015 have had at least a share of the 54-hole lead and went on to victory on the PGA Tour. Moore did not become the third. He holed a 7-iron on the sixth hole for an eagle to take a two-shot lead, and back-to-back birdies early on the back nine stretched his lead to three shots with six to play.

Moore went long and into thick rough on the par-3 13th and made bogey, and then dropped another shot on the 16th. He made one more bogey on the 18th when his hopes were gone, closed with a 72 and finished fifth. □

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Harvick makes it 4 straight wins at Phoenix

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) —

There have been dominant drivers in NASCAR before, seasons where Jeff Gordon or Jimmie Johnson would reel off win after win to break the spirits of the rest of the garage.

Dale Earnhardt had stretches where he was unbeatable, Tony Stewart's had his share of hot streaks, and Rusty Wallace had an unbelievable 1993 season that opened with four wins in eight races.

But it has been 41 years since NASCAR has seen a run like the one Kevin Harvick is making across the country.

The defending Sprint Cup champion won his fourth consecutive race at Phoenix International Raceway on Sunday with yet another rout of the field. The 42 other drivers knew this was Harvick's race to win, and he made it look easy.

He led more than 200 laps for the third straight time at Phoenix, where he has won five of the last six races and a record seven overall.

More important, he continued a streak of dominance that dates to last season. He has seven consecutive top-two finishes and has won four of the last six races, which includes the final two of last year's championship season. Dating back to the Chase last season, Harvick has won five of the last 10 races.

He opened this season with two runner-up finishes, then won last week at Las Vegas and now Phoenix.

The last driver score seven consecutive top-two finishes? Hall of Famer Richard Petty in 1974.

"When you said the Richard Petty part, that gives



Kevin Harvick poses with his wife DeLana, left, and son Keelan, after winning a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race on Sunday, March 15, 2015, in Avondale, Ariz. Associated Press

me chills," Harvick said after learning the Petty stat. He then praised his Rodney Childers-led team, which has given him unbelievable race cars since he first

climbed in the No. 4 Chevrolet in late 2013.

"I feel like we get better as we go through different situations," Harvick said. "You see these guys hang

out together, how mellow everybody is, how everybody gets along. It's really, really special to be a part of. It's scary how well we get along with each other. I don't want to talk about it sometimes so I don't jinx it." Harvick now heads to California looking to sweep NASCAR's three-race West Coast swing. It's not out of the question, particularly with how well he's running. But Harvick won at Auto Club Speedway in 2011, and has been among the best drivers there since 2009.

"I think at this point, everybody just expects you to keep winning. That's what makes it hard on all of us," Childers said. "We've got a

team that can do that. We have a driver that can do that. We have the resources to do that. The more you win, the more you expect out of yourself and the more pressure you put on yourself." And although Harvick denied earlier this weekend that he headed west determined to take all three races, Childers admitted Sunday it's been the goal since they grabbed Las Vegas a week ago.

"When we left Vegas last week, he made a point to say, 'I want to win all three of these West Coast races,'" Childers said. "I think anybody that knows Kevin Harvick, if he puts his head to something, he's going to try to make it happen." □





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Aliy Zirkle moves back into lead of Iditarod; King in second



In this Friday, March 13, 2015, Aliy Zirkle and her team arrive at the Huslia, Alaska, checkpoint for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Associated Press

DAN JOLING

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Three-time runner-up Aliy Zirkle surged to the lead of the Iditarod on Sunday, but Jeff King and Aaron Burmeister were about two hours behind with rested teams as mushers moved off the Yukon River and

headed toward Alaska's west coast.

Zirkle, 45, a 14-year veteran of the race from Two Rivers, just outside Fairbanks, reached the Yukon River village of Kaltag at 2:34 a.m. Sunday. She stayed 14 minutes and left again at 2:48 a.m. with 14 dogs in harness.

King, 59, a four-time champion who last won the race in 2006, reached Kaltag, an Athabaskan village of 180 people, just before 10:30 p.m. Saturday.

King rested for more than six hours and left at 4:37 a.m. Sunday with 13 dogs. Burmeister is running third. He finished a mandatory 8-hour rest and left Kaltag with 13 dogs, just 12 minutes after King.

Racers faced brutally cold temperatures on the 90-mile (145-kilometer) trail leading away from the river to the first stop on the Bering Sea coast, Unalakleet.

The temperature along the trail at midmorning Sunday was 30 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (34 degrees below zero Celsius) but there was no wind, the National Weather Service reported. Unalakleet at minus 6 F (minus 21 C) was warmer. However, after passing Old Woman Mountain, a prominent landmark 58 miles (93 kilometers) out of Kaltag,

mushers will face 32 miles (52 kilometers) of trail that's often windy.

It will not be just a three-person race.

Running in fourth place was current champion Dallas Seavey of Willow. He reached Kaltag at 12:47 a.m., rested for four hours, 48 minutes, and moved out at 5:35 a.m., about three hours, 12 minutes after Zirkle.

In fifth was the only out-of-state musher in the top six.

Jesse Royer of Darby, Montana, reached Kaltag at 5:47 a.m. She stayed just 13 minutes and left at 6 a.m.

The competitive portion of the 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) race began Monday in Fairbanks with 78 mushers.

Five mushers have scratched and one has been disqualified.

Two dogs have died, including a dog on four-time champion Lance Mackey's team. □



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FRI 4:00 | 6:25 | 8:55 | 7:40 | 11:25
SAT 2:15 | 4:00 | 6:25 | 8:55 | 7:40 | 11:25
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 4:00 | 6:25 | 7:40 | 8:55

SPANISH
MON-FRI 5:10
SAT 2:40 | 5:10 | 10:10
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 5:10 | 10:10

PG

LIAM NEESON | ED HARRIS



RUN ALL NIGHT

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25
FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25

R

MAGGIE SMITH | RICHARD GERE



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WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:05
FRI-SAT 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:05 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:05

PG

ADAM SANDLER | DAN STEVENS



THE COBBLER

MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35

PG-13

SHARLTO COPLEY | DEV PATEL

CHAPPIE

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FRI 6:45 | 9:20 | 11:55
SAT 6:45 | 9:20 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 6:45 | 9:20

R

ANTONIO BANDERAS | TOM KENNY

THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE
SPONGEBOB IN WATER

MON-FRI 4:40
SAT 2:35 | 4:40
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:40

PG

WILL SMITH | MARGOT ROBBIE

focus

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

R

VINCE VAUGHN | DAVE FRANCO

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MON-THURS 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35
FRI 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35 | 11:35
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Serena Williams easily advances at Indian Wells



Serena Williams returns to Zarina Diyas, of Kazakhstan, during their match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Sunday, March 15, 2015, in Indian Wells, Calif. Associated Press

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) —

Serena Williams cruised into the fourth round of the BNP Paribas Open on Sunday, beating up-and-comer Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan 6-2, 6-0 in 53 minutes.

Williams was bathed in applause by the half-full stadium court crowd in her second match since ending a 14-year boycott of the tournament. They booed supportively when the chair umpire ruled an apparent ace ticked the net on her second match point.

Williams waved her left arm dismissively toward the chair. She screamed in frustration when her

backhand error wasted a second match point and forced deuce. The world's top-ranked women's player closed it out on her third match point when Diyas' backhand sailed long.

"Things are going in the right direction," Williams said on court. "I was able to play more consistent today and I felt that worked in my favor."

Diyas was making her debut at Indian Wells and fell to 2-9 against top 10 players in her young career. She improved her ranking by 129 spots last year and is currently No. 32.

Next up for Williams is either two-time major champion Svetlana Kuznetsova or fel-

low American Sloane Stephens, who played later.

"It feels really special," Williams said about the crowd reaction. "I feel really glad to be here and still be in the tournament."

Four-time Indian Wells winner Roger Federer played later.

Donald Young led a parade of upsets earlier in the day, with the American beating 31st-seeded Jeremy Chardy 6-4, 6-2.

Young equaled his best result at Indian Wells, reaching the third round for the third time. He faces a potentially tough next match, taking on either No. 3 seed Rafael Nadal or Igor Sijsling, who met in the evening.

"The main thing is I'm doing it a little more consistent, playing a good match after another one, battling through tough situations, and not letting them be too much and take me out of my rhythm," Young said. Young reached his second career ATP Tour final last month in Florida and made the semifinals in Memphis. No. 11 Grigor Dimitrov nearly followed some of the other seeded players out of the tournament, needing three sets to hold off Nick Kyrgios 7-6 (2), 3-6, 7-6 (4) over two hours in 90-degree weather that is unusually hot for this time of year in the desert. Kyrgios fell and rolled his ankle in the ninth game of

the last set, but managed to break back and had a chance to serve out a victory. "It obviously played a big part in me not serving out the match, because I had not really been broken before that," said Kyrgios, who planned to have an ultrasound on his foot.

Dimitrov held serve and went on to win the tie-breaker. "He's an extravagant player, obviously. He tries a lot of different shots, a lot of unstandard decisions," Dimitrov said.

No. 6 Milos Raonic restored order, firing 13 aces and losing just eight points on his serve in defeating Simone Bolelli 6-3, 6-4. "As well as I got the numbers on my serve, I felt I could serve better," Raonic said. "I was really just trying to, especially being the first match of the tournament, hone in on getting my serve, getting my returns, and trying to find that short ball."

Alexandr Dolgoplov, who made the semis here last year, beat No. 29 Santiago Giraldo 6-1, 7-6 (4). Qualifier Michael Berrer advanced when No. 22 Richard Gasquet retired trailing 3-1 in the third set.

Other winners were No. 27 Lukas Rosol and No. 30 Andreas Seppi.

On the women's side, Heather Watson upset seventh-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska 6-4, 6-4, and Elina Svitolina knocked out 10th-seeded Lucie Safarova 7-6 (5), 7-5. □

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Live-streaming apps dominate buzz at South by Southwest

MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A live-streaming app called Meerkat, calls to online activism and pedicabs with a "Game of Thrones" Iron throne seat were the top topics of conversation at South by Southwest over the weekend, as 33,000-plus members of the technology, marketing and media industries poured into Austin, Texas.

"You never know what's around the corner at South By Southwest, it could be a small thing or it could be life changing," said David Rubin, Pinterest's head of brand, at the social media company's annual barbecue on Saturday. He said the festival is a good place to schmooze with clients and do some recruiting.

"Pinterest is about creativity and the employee base is quirky and interesting, so it's a good place to meet potential employees," he

said.

The five-day festival is not yet half over, but buzz-worthy trends are already emerging. Here's a look at top topics so far at the annual gathering of the Tech-norati.

LIVE-STREAMING APPS

An app called Meerkat is dominating conversations. The simple app allows people to live stream anything at the touch of a button. The app used to let users automatically Tweet live streams too, but that came to a stop after Twitter confirmed Friday it acquired Periscope, a Meerkat rival, for undisclosed terms and limited Meerkat's access to Twitter.

At a panel Friday about government patents, U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker had used Meerkat to stream her official swearing in of the new chief of the U.S. Patent and Trademark office Michelle Lee on Twitter. "Being the

first @cabinet official to share key events on this exciting new platform," she tweeted. Countless others streamed other panels and events.

Meanwhile, rival live-streaming app Stre.am is a finalist for SXSW's innovation awards.

ONLINE ACTIVISM

Some major political figures are using the festival to call for online activism. Former Vice President Al Gore gave a rousing talk about the need for urgent action on climate change on Friday. Gore called upon SXSW attendees to get involved in supporting climate change legislation ahead of environmental talks in Paris in December.

"We are at a fork in the road, we can win this, but it requires passion," he said. In a keynote on Saturday, Princess Reema Bint Bandar Al Saud of Saudi Arabia discussed her efforts to bring women into the workplace



In this June 2, 2014 file photo, former Vice President Al Gore addresses the class of 2014 at Princeton University's Class Day in Princeton, N.J.
Associated Press

and announced a new breast cancer awareness campaign that will rely on social and mobile media to spread the word in the Middle East, including the Twitter-ready hashtag #10ksa. Often in the Middle East, "a woman doesn't want to admit unhealthy status," she said. "There are larger cultural issues involved to

talk about breast cancer."

CORPORATE STUNTS

Promotions are everywhere. HBO's "Game of Thrones" is employing pedicabs with Iron-Throne seats and hosting "SXSWesteros," an event site that serves a "Game of Thrones" beer and allows fans a chance to sit on the show's Iron Throne. □

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Institute: China now world's 3rd-biggest arms exporter

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
 Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China has overtaken Germany to become the world's third-biggest arms exporter, although its 5 percent of the market remains small compared to the combined 58 percent of exports from the U.S. and Russia, a new study says.

China's share of the global arms market rose 143 percent during the years from 2010-2014, a period during which the total volume of global arms transfers rose by 16 percent over the previous five years, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said in a report released Monday.

Its share of the world market was up from 3 percent in the 2009-2014 period, when China was ranked ninth among exporters of warplanes, ships, side arms and other weaponry, said the institute, known as SIPRI. The data show the growing strength of China's domestic arms industry, now producing fourth-generation fighter jets, navy frigates and a wide-range of relatively cheap, simple and reliable smaller weapons used in conflicts around the globe.

China had long been a major importer of weapons, mainly from Russia and Ukraine, but its soaring economy and the copying of foreign technology has largely reversed the trend, except for the most cutting-edge designs and sophisticated parts such as aircraft engines.

China supplies weapons to 35 countries, led by Pakistan, Bangladesh and



In this Nov. 21, 2010, file photo, Pakistan Air Force personnel sit in front of their JF-17 jet fighter at the 8th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition (Zhuhai Airshow) in Zhuhai, southern coast of Guangdong province, China.

Associated Press

Myanmar, SIPRI said.

Chinese sales included those of armored vehicles and transport and trainer aircraft to Venezuela, three frigates to Algeria, anti-ship missiles to Indonesia and unmanned combat aerial vehicles, or drones, to Nigeria, which is battling the Boko Haram insurgency in its north.

China's comparative advantages include its low prices, easy financing and friendliness toward authoritarian governments, said Philip Saunders, director of the Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs at the U.S. National Defense University.

"Generally speaking, China offers medium quality weapons systems at affordable prices, a combination attractive to cash-strapped militaries in South Asia, Africa and Lat-

in America," Saunders said. Notable successes include a co-production deal with Pakistan to produce the JF-17 fighter, widespread sales of the basic but effective C-802 anti-ship cruise missile, and an agreement to sell the HQ-9 air defense missile system to Turkey that

has run into controversy over its incompatibility with NATO weapons systems. China also has exploited niche markets such as North Korea and Iran that the West won't sell to, emphasizing its attractiveness to impoverished countries and pariah states, said Ian

Easton, research fellow at The Project 2049 Institute, an Arlington, Virginia-based Asian security think tank.

Both those U.S. foes appear to have received satellite jamming and cyber warfare capabilities from China, along with technologies to break into private communications and spy on government opponents, Easton said.

"All of these sales should be very disconcerting to American policymakers and military leaders," he said, calling China's rise to the third-place spot among exporters a "disturbing development" that could threaten the security of the U.S. and its allies.

China also offers leading-edge drone technology at competitive prices. One model, known variously as the Yilong, Wing Loong or Pterodactyl, has become especially popular with foreign buyers, although Chinese secrecy surrounding such sales makes it difficult to know how many are in service and where. □

GE sells 'down-under' finance business in \$6.3 billion deal

The Associated Press

General Electric is selling another segment of its financial business, transferring its GE Capital consumer-lending operation in Australia and New Zealand to a group of investors in a deal valued at roughly \$6.3 billion.

Buyers include Varde Partners, a global investment

firm based in Minneapolis, along with the investment firm KKR & Co. and DeutscheBank.

GE Capital provides personal loans and credit cards to about 3 million consumers in Australia and New Zealand, along with financial services for major retailers, the company said Sunday. The deal does

not involve its commercial financing business, which makes loans to mid-sized businesses in those countries.

The deal is valued at 8.2 billion Australian dollars. GE has recently spun off other lending units in North America and Europe.

GE's headquarters is in Fairfield, Connecticut. □

College for a New Age



Joe Nocera
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Kevin Carey has a 4-year-old girl. Carey, the director of the education policy program at the New America Foundation, has been thinking about the role of universities in American life for virtually his entire career. But after his daughter was born, that thinking took on a new urgency. "All of a sudden there is a mental clock," he told me the other day. "How am I going to pay for her college education? I wanted to write a book that asked, 'What will college be like when my daughter is ready to go?'"

His answer is his new book, "The End of College," which is both a stinging indictment of the university business model and a prediction about how technology is likely to change it. His vision is at once apocalyptic and idealistic. He calls it "The University of Everywhere."

"The story of higher education's future is a tale of ancient institutions in their last days of decadence, creating the seeds of a new world to come," he writes. If he is right, higher education will be transformed into a different kind of learning experience that is cheaper, better, more personalized and more useful.

Universities in their current form have been with us for so long that it is difficult to imagine them operating any other way. But Carey begins "The End of College" by making a persuasive case that the university model has long been deeply flawed. It has three different missions: "practical training, research and liberal arts education." Over time, the mission that came to matter most within the university culture was research. Great research institutions derived the most status. And professors who did significant research - publish or perish! - were the ones who reaped the rewards of the university system.

On the other hand, actual teaching, which is what the students - and their parents - are paying for, is scarcely valued at all. There is also the absurd importance of the football team. The hundreds of millions of dollars spent to create an ever newer, ever fancier campus. The outmoded idea that college should cater to students just out of high school, even though a significant portion of students are in different stages of life.

And, of course, there is the cost. Student debt now tops \$1 trillion, and Carey spoke to students who were going to graduate with more than \$100,000 of debt, a terrible burden at the beginning of one's career. Schools like George Washington University and New York University became top-tier universities in no small part by aggressively raising their prices - which, in turn, became part of the reason they are now considered prestigious universities.

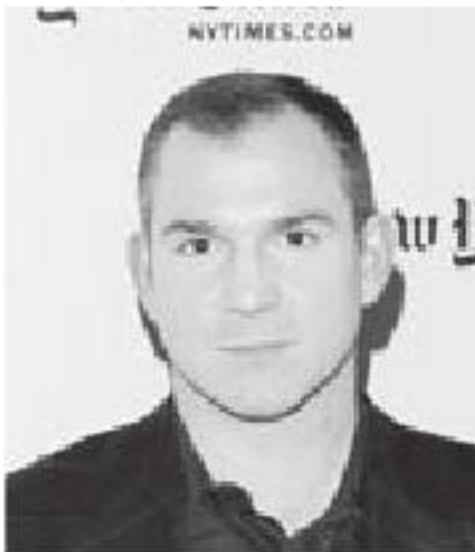
Although Carey has long been aware of the flaws of the university model, it is the out-of-control cost of college that he believes will cause people to search for a different way to educate students. Indeed, much of the rest of his book is devoted to the educators, scientists, entrepreneurs, and venture capitalists who are developing new ways to provide learning that make much more sense for many more students. "You don't need libraries and research infrastructure and football teams and this insane race for status," he says. "If you only have to pay for the things that you actually need, education doesn't cost \$60,000 a year."

Carey spends a good chunk of "The End of College" exploring the new world of online learning, for instance. To that end, he took an online course - problem sets and exams included - offered by Eric Lander, the MIT professor who was a principal leader of the Human Genome Project. It was, he concludes, a better experience than if he had sat in Lander's classroom. He expects that as more people take to online learning, the combination of massive amounts of data and advances in artificial intelligence will make it possible for courses to adapt to the way each student learns. He sees thousands of people around the world taking the same course and developing peer groups that become communities, like study groups at universities. "A larger and larger percentage of the education that has been historically confined to scarce, expensive colleges and universities will be liberated and made available to anyone, anywhere." That's what I mean when I say his vision is an idealistic one. (Carey also believes that overtime, new kinds of credentials will emerge that will be accepted by employers, making it less necessary to get a traditional college degree. He explored this subject for The Upshot, which was published in Sunday Review in The Times over the weekend.)

When might all this take place? I asked him. He wasn't ready to hazard a guess; colleges are protected by government regulation, accreditation boards, and cultural habit, among other things. But, he said, it was inevitable that we were going to see an increased educational experience at a far lower cost. Maybe he'll even be able to stop saving for his daughter's college education. Maybe the rest of us will, too. □



Hillary's Prickly Apologia



Frank Bruni
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Convenience."
"Convenience."
"Convenience."
"Convenience."

Hillary Clinton's reliance on that word during her news conference at the United Nations on Tuesday minimized the exemption from standard procedure that she allowed herself when she decided - all on her own - to use only a private email address for both personal and government business.

She told reporters that she hadn't wanted to be weighed down by a second electronic device. It wasn't secrecy that motivated her. It was purse space and pinkie strain.

And behind her forced smile, which was practically cemented in place, she seemed put out by all the skepticism and all the questions. She shouldn't be. This latest Clinton controversy is not the work or fault of Republican enemies or a ruthless, unappeasable press corps. It's her doing.

She made a choice when she stepped into the secretary of state's job that was bound to be second-guessed if it ever came to light, as everything eventually does. And when it did, she was silent about it for a week, letting suspicions fester.

She was on the spit Tuesday because she placed herself there.

But the real problem with

the news conference wasn't anything specific that she said or didn't say, any particular tone of voice or set of her shoulders that she aced or bungled.

It was what kept coming to mind as she stood before the cameras once again, under fire once again, aggrieved once again by Americans' refusal to see and simply trust how well intentioned and virtuous and good for the country she is:

Yesterday.

It was all so very yesterday.

And elections are about tomorrow. Yes, that's a cliché, but it's also unassailable political truth.

And Clinton's challenge is to persuade an electorate that has known her since the Mesozoic era and trudged wearily with her through so much political melodrama that to vote for her is to turn the page, to embrace a new chapter, to move forward. On Tuesday she didn't look as if she was leaning into the future. She looked as if she was getting sucked into the past.

That's not where voters want to go. Oh, sure, the Clinton years are remembered as prosperous ones, and she and Bill don't hurt her cause by rekindling those memories and stoking a bit of nostalgia.

But nostalgia doesn't win elections. The promise of solutions to problems and better times ahead does.

And right now there's little horizon in Clinton's unofficial campaign for the White House; it's almost all rearview mirror. The conversation - incredibly - has returned to Rose Law Firm records lost and found, to the pricey privilege of the Lincoln Bedroom, to Whitewater. Her "convenience"-fixated remarks at the United Nations won't change that.

They may nudge the news narrative in a different direction, because the news narrative is always ready for a different direction, and because she made some smart, deft moves.

She spoke of a wedding and

of a funeral and even of yoga, reminding everyone that she's not merely a functionary but a daughter and a mother, with concerns not just about her upward rise but also about the downward dog.

She made a plea for protected spaces in public life that most voters will find sympathetic.

She made a very good point: that even government officials who have two email accounts decide, whenever they write a new communication, which one to use. So they're doing a real-time editing not much different from her after-the-fact editing when she made the call about which of her tens of thousands of emails to turn over to the State Department.

But what she needs, not so much to put this behind her as to get ahead, is a kind of reset, a reboot, one in which she sublimates her understandable desire to conduct her business in the way she prefers to a show of openness and transparency. She shouldn't simply be assuring voters that they can trust her and that no outside arbiter is needed. She should be eliminating the shields and shenanigans that create room for distrust in the first place.

That would be a break with the Clintons of the 1990s, a departure from politics as usual and a sign to voters that in order to make political history, she's willing to examine her personal history, acknowledge her mistakes and change her ways, electing candor over ceaseless calculation.

No more minced words. No more spit hairs. No more donations to the Clinton Foundation that have a whiff of hypocrisy and suggest conflicts of interest.

She's going to have a primary, all right, but it will be a contest against her own worst impulses, default defensiveness and prickly sense of insult when pressed for explanations. From what I saw Tuesday, victory is uncertain. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	7	9					2	
4	5			7	3			1
3		6		8				
			6		5		4	
	2	4				5	1	
	9		2		4			
				4		2		7
7			3	2			9	6
	8					3	5	

Difficulty Level ★

3/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

2	6	7	8	1	9	4	5	3
1	3	5	2	4	7	6	8	9
8	4	9	6	5	3	7	2	1
3	5	1	4	2	6	8	9	7
6	9	8	3	7	1	2	4	5
7	2	4	5	9	8	3	1	6
5	1	2	7	3	4	9	6	8
9	7	6	1	8	2	5	3	4
4	8	3	9	6	5	1	7	2

ACROSS

- 1 Luau dish
- 4 Run __ of the law; commit a crime
- 9 Facts & figures
- 13 Hotels
- 15 Honking bird
- 16 Cosmetics brand
- 17 Actor Gregory
- 18 Levels, as a building
- 19 Intellect
- 20 Unabashed
- 22 Crematory shelf supplies
- 23 Golf pegs
- 24 __ and flow; tide movement
- 26 Mother superior
- 29 Become pregnant
- 34 Scorches
- 35 Was crazy about
- 36 Marino or Fogelberg
- 37 Late singer Mama
- 38 Lubricated
- 39 Hairless
- 40 Sept.'s follower
- 41 Knight's metal coat
- 42 Lake near Reno
- 43 Actor
- 45 Write in a log
- 46 Chicken piece
- 47 Faucet problem
- 48 Drink made with ice cream
- 51 Hugeness
- 56 Border on
- 57 Unsuspecting
- 58 Lunchtime
- 60 Cowboy Autry
- 61 VP Spiro
- 62 Lady __ of the music world
- 63 Open __; alert
- 64 Is fond of
- 65 Short swim

DOWN

- 1 __-squeak; little twerp
- 2 Change for a five

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14						16		
17				18					19		
	20			21					22		
		23				24	25				
26	27	28			29	30			31	32	33
34				35					36		
37				38					39		
40			41					42			
43		44					45				
			46			47					
48	49	50		51	52	53			54	55	
56				57					58		59
60				61					62		
63				64					65		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/16/15

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

DOM	BYLAW	SWAB
APEX	LIBRA	MILE
NEST	UPSET	ODES
ENSIGNS	NEGLECT	
NOT	DARED	
EDICT	HES	NECKS
MINT	GAS	AERIAL
BAT	OUTINGS	GPA
ENERGY	ROB	TAPS
RARER	MEN	SARAH
FETID	MOB	
SPOUSES	PANACEA	
MOVE	ACTOR	SLAP
OPAL	CURES	CARE
GELS	HEATH	OWNS

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3/16/15

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 39 Supporting | 50 Sound mound |
| 41 Primate | 52 Epiphany visitors |
| 42 Soothing drinks | 53 Soft-furred weasel |
| 44 Scheduled | 54 Frog's cousin |
| 45 Rejuvenates | 55 Cartoon bear |
| 47 Embankment | 59 Afternoon rest |
| 48 Cooking herb | |
| 49 Toe the line | |

Bigger crashes promised in 2nd run of Large Hadron Collider



A May 31, 2007 file photo shows a view of the LHC (large hadron collider) in its tunnel at CERN (European particle physics laboratory) near Geneva, Switzerland.

Associated Press

SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Scientists will soon debut the blockbuster sequel to the so-called Big Bang Machine, which already found the elusive Higgs Boson. They're promising nearly twice the energy and far more violent particle crashes this time around.

After a two-year shutdown and upgrade, the multi-billion dollar Large Hadron Collider is about to ramp up for its second three-year run. Scientists at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, say if nature cooperates, the more powerful beam crashes will give them a peek into the unseen dark universe.

Beams should start running through the giant machine later this month, with the first high energy crashes probably coming in May, accelerator director Frederick Bordry said in a Thursday news conference in Geneva. Scientists hope to see all sorts of new physics, including a first ever glimpse of dark matter, one of the chief focuses of the experiment.

"I want to see the first light in the dark universe," CERN General Director Rolf Heuer said. "If I see that, then nature is kind to me."

Dark matter — and its cousin, dark energy — make up most of the universe, yet scientists haven't been able to see them yet, so researchers are looking for them in high-energy crashes, in orbit on a special experiment on the international space station, and in a deep underground mine.

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24/7

At last, a theory about why Denver is a mile above sea level

By **DAN ELLIOTT**
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) -- Geologists may finally be able to explain why Denver, the Mile High City, is a mile high: water. A new theory suggests that chemical reactions, triggered by water far below the Earth's surface, could have made part of the North American plate less dense many millions of years ago, when the continents we know today were still forming. Because plates float on the Earth's mantle, parts of the Western United States might have risen, like an empty boat next to one with a heavy cargo, pushing the vast High Plains far above sea level, according to the theory formulated by geologists Craig Jones and Kevin Mahan at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Their work appeared last week on the website of the journal *Geology*, and is a big deal for Denver, where the 5,280-foot elevation is a point of pride and a big part of the city's identity. At Coors Field, where the Colorado Rockies play baseball, a single row of purple seats interrupts about 50,000 green ones, marking the mile-high line in the grandstand. Geologists have long been puzzled by how the High Plains could be so big, so high and so smooth. The plains descend gently from roughly 6,000 feet to 2,000 feet above sea level as they stretch for thousands of square miles,



A marker carved in one of the west steps of the State Capitol denotes the "one mile above sea level" elevation in Denver on Friday, March 13, 2015.

from the Texas Panhandle to southern Montana, and from western Kansas to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. It's well established that much of the West was still at sea level 70 million years ago, and that tectonic shifts don't fully explain the High Plains' altitude. The lifting began long after the ancient Farallon oceanic plate was shoved deep under a vast part of western North America and then settled deep into the planet's mantle over millions of years. Why? "Crustal hydration," Jones and Mahan theorize. They suggest that water that had been locked in minerals in the Farallon plate was released because of pressure

from the overlying rock and heat emanating from the Earth's core. The water then rose into the continental plate, setting off chemical reactions that turned garnet and other dense minerals into mica and other less heavy minerals, making vast areas of the crust lighter. Jones said the Earth's crust under the High Plains "floats higher" over the mantle, much like a plank of buoyant balsa wood rises higher in the water than a plank of dense pine. The reason crustal hydration happened where and when it did has to do with how steeply the oceanic plate descended, Jones said. At some point, the angle at which the plate

was descending became shallower, enabling the released water to rise for reasons that remain unclear, he said. Few geological formations appear so uniform on such a vast scale as the High Plains - the only other known location in the world that's similar is in southern Africa, Jones said. The prevailing theory there is different, involving some other source of buoyance, Mahan said. The composition of rocks found in the High Plains is strong evidence in favor of the hypothesis, Jones said, but it needs more testing, and that was one reason for publishing it. "Do we think this is 'the' answer? No. Could it be 'an' answer? I suppose it's

possible," said Jones, who is also a fellow at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, a partnership of CU and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The theory has merit, according to Ken Dueker, a professor of geology and geophysics at the University of Wyoming. "It's a plausible hypothesis that has some data to support it," said Dueker, who was not part of the team that devised it. One unanswered question, which Jones and Mahan raised in the journal *Geology*, is what channeled the water up into the North American plate, Dueker said. The Farallon plate also helped form the Rocky Mountains just west of Denver, which soar as high as 14,433 feet. As it moved under the continent, friction caused the North American plate above to compress horizontally, like a rug that bunches up if a foot is dragged across it, geologists say. Cracks opened from that horizontal pressure, and one side was shoved higher than the other, creating the Rockies. Not knowing why Denver is a mile high is a little awkward for Colorado geologists. Jones recalls having to tell a British TV producer a few years ago that he couldn't explain it. "We probably need to figure this one out, guys, because it's kind of embarrassing," Jones said. □

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'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' actor arrested again in Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — Actor Nicholas Brendon faces new charges after a second disturbance at a Florida hotel.

Brendon, who has appeared on the television series "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and "Criminal Minds," posted \$1,000 bond Saturday from the Leon County jail.

Tallahassee Police say he was charged Friday with damage to property and criminal mischief after damaging his room.

Brendon told the Tallahassee Democrat that he took sleeping pills and then went "into a blackout."

He said he's been dealing with depression but not taking medication. He said he would seek a doctor's care and meet with fans Sunday at a convention. Brendon faced similar



This Friday, Oct. 17, 2014 file photo shows the booking photo provided by Ada County Sheriff of actor Nicholas Brendon, of Sherman Oaks, Calif., after he was arrested in Boise, Idaho.
Associated Press

charges after an incident last month at a Fort Lauderdale hotel. In October, Brendon said he would seek treatment after a similar arrest at an Idaho hotel. □

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'Cinderella' is belle of the box office with \$70.1M debut

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Let It Go" may be Walt Disney's anthem these days, but "Everything's Coming Up Roses" might be the more accurate theme song for the Disney juggernaut.

Disney's recent streak continued over the weekend with the \$70.1 million North American debut of its traditional, sumptuously costumed fairy tale adaptation "Cinderella," according to studio estimates Sunday. Interest in the film, directed by Kenneth Branagh and starring Lily James of "Downton Abbey," was boosted by a "Frozen" short, "Frozen Fever," that played before the feature.

Disney's box-office surge has been propelled partly by the so-called "halo effect" of "Frozen," a sequel to which Disney announced last week. But it's also been driven by the



This image released by Disney shows Lily James as Cinderella in Disney's live-action feature film inspired by the classic fairy tale, "Cinderella."

appeal of seeing Disney cartoon classics turned into live-action fantasies. "Cinderella" follows previous live-action hits like "Maleficent" (whose May 2014 debut of \$69.4 million "Cinderella" narrowly bested) and "Alice in Wonderland."

The holiday release "Into the Woods," from the Stephen Sondheim musical, added to the live-action trend, and many more are

on the way. "The Jungle Book," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Dumbo" are all coming in live action, as is a sequel to "Alice in Wonderland."

Disney has also found big profits in capitalizing on female moviegoers, who made up the largest chunk of "Frozen" and "Maleficent" fans. The audience for "Cinderella" was 66 percent female, Disney said.

"There is seemingly a lot of appetite for these stories to be told, I think, in part because many of them have a female protagonist and we've seen there's significant box-office success that can come by featuring female-driven stories," said Dave Hollis, head of distribution at Disney.

"Frozen Fever" was certainly part of why we're seeing the kind of success that we did this weekend," Hollis said. "In and of itself, 'Cinderella' is absolutely a great, stand-alone experience. But it ends up being a one-plus-one-equals-three thing for the consumer."

The success of "Cinderella," which cost about \$95 million to make, was international. It made \$62.4 million overseas, including \$25 million in China. Disney could also celebrate "Big Hero 6" becoming the top-grossing worldwide animated release of 2014; the

Oscar-winner has made \$633 million globally.

With Disney's high-priced but lucrative ownership of Marvel, Lucasfilm and Pixar, the studio will be flexing its strength throughout 2015 with releases like "The Avengers: Age of Ultron," "Inside Out" and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

"Disney is just a well-oiled machine that is firing on all cylinders right now," says Paul Dergarbedian, senior media analyst for box-office data firm Rentrak. "It's about this Disney umbrella which encompasses these incredible crown jewel brands they have. 'Cinderella' is just the latest example."

While Disney was flexing its might, the powers of another box-office force, Liam Neeson, were checked. Neeson's latest thriller, "Run All Night," a New York crime saga co-starring Ed Harris, opened with \$11 million for Warner Bros. □

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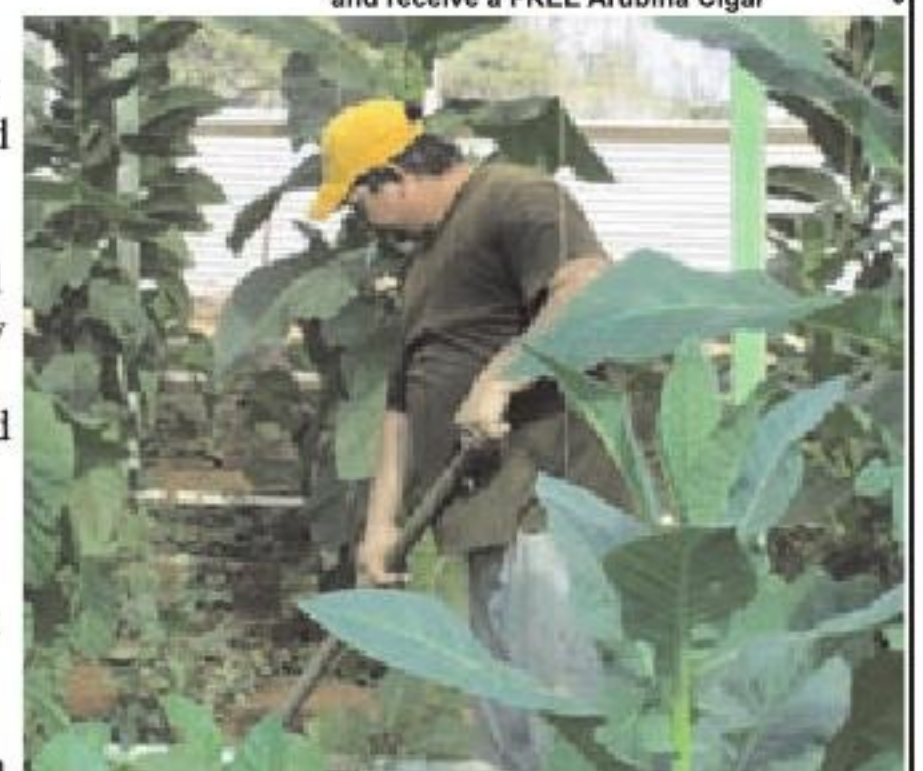
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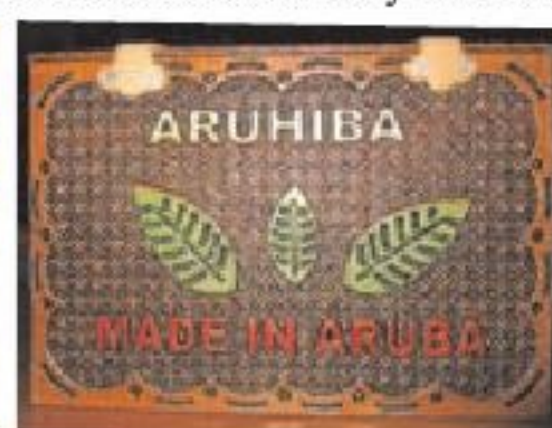
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